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**BERWYN MAYORAL ASSISTANT STILLO ARRESTED ON FEDERAL
RACKETEERING CHARGES ALLEGING BRIBERY IN CITY LAND DEALS**

CHICAGO – A Berwyn city official was arrested today by FBI agents for allegedly receiving and paying cash bribes to fix the municipal bidding and contract process relating to two properties owned by the city and being made available for private development, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Thomas J. Kneir, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The defendant, **Samuel Stillo**, the appointed assistant mayor of Berwyn, was arrested today and charged with racketeering in a criminal complaint filed in Federal Court. At the same time, FBI agents executed a search warrant for records at the Berwyn City Hall, 6700 West 26th St., in Berwyn, a suburb just west of Chicago.

Stillo, 59, also known as “Sonny,” a Berwyn resident and former town alderman, was scheduled to have his initial appearance at 4 p.m. today before Magistrate Judge Michael Mason in U.S. District Court.

An FBI affidavit attached to the complaint discloses that agents are investigating allegations of illegal bidding procedures and no-bid contracts approved by the elected Berwyn City Council.

The complaint alleges that Stillo committed two acts of bribery between October 2003 and Nov. 13, 2003. In the first instance, Stillo allegedly solicited, received and agreed to accept money from unnamed “Individual A” to use his influence and to assist Individual A in purchasing property owned by the City of Berwyn at 1642 S. Scoville Ave., in Berwyn. Stillo and Individual A allegedly discussed Individual A’s purchase of the Scoville property with an elected public official who was cooperating with the government’s investigation. After several discussions, on Oct. 22, 2003, Individual A paid the cooperating witness (CW1) \$2,500 for the assistance CW1 was providing to Individual A in connection with the Scoville property. On Nov. 13, 2003, Stillo met with CW1 and said that he, meaning Stillo, was going to receive \$5,000 from Individual A for Stillo’s assistance in connection with Individual A obtaining the Scoville property, according to the complaint.

Regarding the second parcel, the complaint alleges that Stillo promised and gave money to CW1 to influence CW1’s support for Individual A in the development of some portions of what is known as “Super Block,” a project involving various parcels in a block bounded by South Oak Park Avenue, Grove Avenue and Cermak Road, all within a tax increment financing district in Berwyn. At a meeting on Jan. 8, 2003, Individual A explained to CW1 that he hoped to obtain the property with assistance from CW1 and Stillo.

According to the complaint, on Nov. 13, Stillo met with CW1 and said he, meaning Stillo, would pay CW1 a total of \$1,000 – including \$500 that night – for CW1’s vote at a City Council meeting that night relating to awarding the development of the Super Block project to an unnamed entity identified as “Developer A” and to adopt Developer A’s proposal. CW1 Asked Stillo to defer the Super Block vote until Nov. 25, 2003, so that CW1 could talk to his political supporters and

Stillo agreed. Later that night, in a consensually video-recorded meeting in a men's restroom at the Berwyn City Hall, Stillo allegedly paid CW1 \$500 of the promised \$1,000.

The investigation is continuing, Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Kneir said. Anyone with information regarding possible public corruption in Berwyn is encouraged to call an FBI hotline at (312) 786-2699.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kaarina Salovaara.

If convicted, racketeering carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. The Court, however, would determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed under the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The public is reminded that a complaint contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt

Editors Note: Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Kneir will be available to announce these charges at 3:30 p.m. in the Dirksen Building lobby just prior to the initial court appearance. Copies of the criminal complaint will be available at that time, or from the Chicago FBI press office at (312) 786-2645 or the U.S. Attorney's Office at (312) 353-5318.

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